

In June 2004, President Musselman completes her tour of duty as Department President; and I officially recognize her for her outstanding service to veterans and her country.

AMVETS DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER REGIS W. RILEY

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, today, I would like to recognize an American patriot, one who has served his country faithfully and dutifully for over 30 years both in military service and as a leader of one of Pennsylvania's most active veteran service organizations—the American Veterans or, AMVETS as it is called. In June 2004, Regis W. Riley will complete his elected tour of duty as AMVETS Department Commander. As he departs this position of responsibility, it is appropriate that he be recognized not only for his successful year as Department Commander, but also for his many contributions and his many years of leadership in AMVETS.

Following his honorable discharge from active duty in the U.S. Army in 1974, Rege, as he is known to all, worked his way through the ranks of AMVETS in a number of leadership positions including Post Commander for 9 years, Commander of the Western Region, and President of the Pennsylvania State War Veterans Council. Rege is also a voting member of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission.

His dedication to the cause of veterans has been his hallmark including coordination of the Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Veterans Day Ceremonies in the Mon Valley and surrounding areas and service in the cause of homeless veterans as Chairman of the National Homeless Veterans Committee. He is a recipient of the Leadership of Excellence Pin, the National AMVETS' Recruiter of the Year Award and in 2001, he was honored as the Department of Pennsylvania AMVET Member of the Year.

As Rege departs the position as Department Commander, it is appropriate that Pennsylvanians, particularly Pennsylvania's veterans say thank you for dedication and leadership and a job well done.

VFW PENNSYLVANIA STATE
COMMANDER CHARLES PRINCE

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, today, I would like to recognize an American patriot, one who has served his country faithfully and dutifully for over 50 years. During this period when recognition was recently given to America's greatest generation through the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize an American patriot, one who has served his country faithfully and honorably not only in World War II, but also in the Korean War. Charles Prince served in the United States Navy aboard four Navy men-of-war, the

USS *Missouri*, the USS *South Dakota*, and USS *Quincy* and the USS *Donaldson*. For his service, he received the Victory Medal, American Campaign Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon with seven stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars and the Good Conduct Medal.

Following his military service, Charles Prince did what many veterans returning to Pennsylvania did; he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He rose through the ranks of the VFW and became the Post Commander in Confluence, PA and All American District Commander for the 23rd District in 1996. On June 28, 2003, Charles Prince was elected State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars and in June 2004, he will complete this tour of duty. In addition, Charles has been an advocate for national security and veterans employment and has served on VFW committees in support of these endeavors.

His government service did not end with the military. After 17 years of service in the Somerset county Assessment Office, he retired as Somerset County Appraiser.

While Commander Prince is rightfully proud of his service to his country, I suspect that he ranks as the greatest event in his life his 55 years of marriage to his wife Jean. I wish them continued health and happiness.

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT DELIA ANN KREILING

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, on the occasion of completion of her tour as Pennsylvania's President of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, it is honor and pleasure to cite Delia "Dee" Ann Kreiling for her leadership, her many years of service with AMVETS and her compassion in the care of veterans.

Dee's late father Elmer was a World War II veteran and like the daughters of many veterans, she saw service in the cause of veterans as a duty. As the coordinator of Veterans Services at the University of Pittsburgh, she has overseen for many years a staff of student veterans who assist eligible veterans and family members in receiving their education benefits. During the past year, Dee has focused her energies on "Sharing and Caring," a program of service to hospitalized veterans. In 2001, she was the recipient of the Pennsylvania AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Member of the Year Award.

In addition to her enthusiasm in addressing veterans' issues, Dee has also been active for several years in "Shoes for the Needy" and the St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

On behalf of Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvania veterans, I salute her for her many contributions and for her leadership.

VEST BUSTER

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I have long been concerned about a new .50

caliber handgun manufactured by Smith and Wesson Corporation declared the "most powerful production revolver in the world today." Now, the Violence Policy Center reports that these handguns can blast through the body armor of our nation's law enforcement officers. This should disturb all Americans and all who care about the safety of our law enforcement personnel.

This new weapon fires a .500 Smith and Wesson Magnum bullet packing a muzzle force of 2,600 foot-pounds. The bullet is half an inch wide and is more powerful than comparable ammunition because it is much longer and contains more gunpowder. According to the Violence Policy Center's analysis, the .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum round far exceeds the protection level of the highest grade of concealable body armor normally used by law enforcement officers.

Body armor has saved the lives of countless numbers of law enforcement officers because of its ability to stop handgun rounds. The .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum round is more powerful than some rifle rounds. According to data compiled by the Violence Policy Center, during the 1990 to 1999 period, 20 officers were killed by gunshot wounds as a result of rounds penetrating their body armor. A rifle fired each one of these rounds. However, the .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum takes pistol power to rifle-power level and presents a deadly challenge to the life-saving record of law enforcement's body armor.

The decision to produce the .50 caliber handgun represents a great step backward in efforts to improve gun safety. Instead of sensible steps to make guns safer and keep guns from getting into the wrong hands, this moves in the opposite direction, creating a handgun that is reported to have double the power of most assault rifles.

I am a cosponsor of the Military Sniper Weapon Regulation Act, a bill which would change the way .50 caliber sniper rifles are regulated by placing them under the requirements of the National Firearms Act. This bill would subject the sniper rifles to the same regimen of registration and background checks as other weapons of war, such as machine guns. The new Smith and Wesson .50 caliber handgun should be included in this legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.